
FY 2020
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**.
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to jjchynoweth@usda.gov by **May 1, 2020**.

(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them after completing form.)

Project Name	Blackfoot Buried Telephone Line
District Name (or "Forestwide")	Lochsa-Powell
County where project located?	Idaho
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent and point of contact.</i>	Adam McClory, Forest Lands Uses Program Manager, (208) 875-1734; adam.mcclory@usda.gov ; Brandon Knapton, Lochsa-Powell District Ranger, (208) 926-6400; brandon.knapton@usda.gov
Legal Location <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T. 37 N., R. 14 E., Section 28, Boise Meridian
Decision Maker's Name <i>District Ranger/Line Officer responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Cheryl Probert
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	No.
Which CE Category does this project fit? <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>Categorical Exclusion categories can be found here: FSH1909.15_30 Amend-2018-1 CEs</i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d)(x) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(2) <u>Additional construction or reconstruction of existing telephone or utility lines in a designated corridor.</u>

NOTE: A Project Record and written Decision are not required for projects using a 36 CFR 220.6 (d) category, except at the Decision Maker's discretion.

If being submitted under 36 CFR 220.6 (d) category, does the Decision Maker want a written Decision?

Yes No

If no, this form **does not** need to be filled out nor submitted to the Small NEPA planner.

If yes, provide the category in the block above, complete the remainder of this form and have Decision Maker submit it to the Small NEPA planner. Don't forget that the Proponent must submit shapefiles as well.

At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?

Internal X External* ____

Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.

External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see block below) unless otherwise specified.

****For external scoping, please complete the next three blocks.***

Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. (other than those listed below*) with their mailing address and/or email address, of those who will be included for External Scoping.

- DO NOT provide only a name.
- DO NOT leave this box blank: **If no additional individuals are to be externally scoped please enter NA.**

N/A

**** The following will be included for all SN externally scoped projects: Nez Perce Tribe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe (North Zone projects only), Friends of the Clearwater, Idaho Conservation League, American Forest Resource Council, Idaho Wildlife Federation, IDFG – Clearwater Region, Thomas E. Peterson, Bill Mulligan, Gregg Winkler, Phil/Jean Poxleitner (Red River projects only)***

Does the Decision Maker want a Legal Notice published in the Lewiston Tribune? Yes ____ No X

If yes, the scoping period starts the day after the LN is published.

If no, the scoping period will start ~4 days after the date the scoping letters are mailed.

The scoping period will be 14 days unless the Decision Maker wants to change it. ____ Days

What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

X **Low level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively low or unknown. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed Extraordinary Circumstances checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

_____ **Moderate level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively moderate to high. In this case, specialists would complete the Extraordinary Circumstances checklist with the only write up being for resources that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present.

If the determination is no effect (which most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document *why* that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then *why* that determination was made would be written in less than three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

C4.

What are the Management Area(s)' Goals and Standards* that are *relevant to your project*?

Goals and standards applicable to the Lands Resource:

Forest-wide:

Lands, Standard P. "Provide for the use of utility corridors and small hydroelectric facilities to the extent that Forest Plan direction can be met."

Management area C4:

7. Land

Standard:

b. Designate area as suitable for potential utility corridors if soil, watershed, and wildlife constraints can be met or mitigated.

** Goals and Standards are described in Chapter 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans. Include any **relevant** Forestwide Standards found in Chapter 2 of the Forest Plans as well.*

Is the project in a designated Idaho Roadless Area (IRA)? Yes* **No**

If yes, which one?

** Fill in the 'Project in Roadless Area' table below, AND complete a Briefing Paper . Provide the completed Briefing Paper to the Environmental Coordinator (Zoanne Anderson) and Brian Riggers **PRIOR TO SCOPING**.*

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* **No**

If yes, which one(s)?

* For projects that occur in a **Wilderness Area**, contact Carol Hennessey, carol.hennessey@usda.gov, 935-4270, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.

* For projects that occur in a **Wild and Scenic River Corridor**, contact Chris Noyes, chris.noyes@usda.gov, 935-4289, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.

* For projects that occur in a **Research Natural Area**, contact Mike Hays, mike.hays@usda.gov, 935-4285, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.

* For projects that occur in the **Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark**, contact Steve Lucas, steve.lucas@usda.gov, 963-4212, BEFORE submitting this proposal, to discuss how the project may affect the designated area.

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes **No**

Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area? Yes **No**

If yes, which one?

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes **No**

Describe the Existing Conditions of the project area.

Blackfoot Telephone (BT) currently provides service along Highway 12 and to property owners adjacent to the Highway. Therefore, much of the area is already disturbed with telephone line and powerline infrastructure. BT has been contacted by a private landowner requesting service be provided to their private property. BT has an existing permit (authorized under POW106; expiration date 12/31/2030) with the National Forest Service.

The project area is located in the existing Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) right-of-way (ROW) directly adjacent to U.S. Highway 12. ITD has granted Blackfoot Telephone permission to conduct the work within the ROW.

Describe the Desired Conditions of the project area.

No visible changes to the ITD right-of-way will result from implementation of this project. Blackfoot Telephone's existing permit will be amended to include the new telephone line.

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action*?

Blackfoot Telephone proposes to bury 300 feet of telephone line in an existing ITD right-of-way along Highway 12. The new line is needed to provide service to a private landowner. The new telephone line will connect to the existing line currently in place in the IDT right-of-way. Because the ROW is located on National Forest System (NFS) Lands, the project will need to be approved.

** The purpose and need describes:*

- *What is the desired goal/outcome (the purpose) of the action?*
- *Why the action being proposed at this location at this time (the problem/the need for the action?).*

Describe the Proposed Action.

Blackfoot telephone is requesting to bury approximately 300' of copper telephone line within the existing Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) right-of-way on U.S. Highway 12. The installation will be done by Blackfoot Telephone using a vibratory plow which will bury (30 - 36 inches deep) and cover the line as it moves along. Upon completion Blackfoot Telephone will be required to reseed the project area with the Forest Service approved seed mix.

Blackfoot Telephone is proposing to complete this work in summer 2020. Work should take 1-2 days to complete and standard traffic notifications and safety protocol will be implemented.

The only additional permit/approval required for this project is through the Idaho Transportation Department, allowing Blackfoot Telephone to conduct the work. This approval has already been provided to Blackfoot Telephone.

List the Design Feature / Mitigation Measures * to be included with the Proposed Action.

NW-1: Use Forest Service approved native plant species or non-native species mixes and mulches that have been certified weed-free seed and mulch.

A-1: Ground-disturbing activities would be halted if cultural resources are discovered until an Archaeologist can properly evaluate and document the resources in compliance with 36 CFR 800.

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mike.hays@usda.gov; 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, derrick.bawdon@usda.gov; 963-4211

Heritage – Christy Mog, christy.mog@usda.gov; 935-4269

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, cynthia.valle@usda.gov; 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, martin.jones@usda.gov; 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, cahennessey@usda.gov; 935-4270

Soils – Alex Rozin, alexandra.rozin@usda.gov; 842-2100

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, chris.noyes@usda.gov; 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, james.r.lutes@usda.gov; 963-4202

Small NEPA Planner – Jeff Chynoweth, james.chynoweth@usda.gov; 935-4260

PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
 - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
 - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
 - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
 - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5__1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
 - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
 - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
 - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@usda.gov) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

Projects in Roadless Area

What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?	<u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u>
Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wild Land Recreation</i> • <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i> • <i>Primitive</i> • <i>Backcountry Restoration</i> • <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i> 	Classification(s):
Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No <i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i>	
Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No <i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i>	
Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No <i>* If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2 then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i>	

JC : 2/25/2020

Additional Information: